

America and the World

Foreign Affairs in Political Cartoons, 1898–1940

Featuring Drawings by Clifford K. Berryman



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ii

Introduction

This draft version of AMERICA AND THE WORLD presents a selection of 63 political cartoons by Clifford K. Berryman to engage students in a discussion of American foreign policy from the Spanish American war to the eve of World War II. It features the masterful work of one of America's preeminent political cartoonists and showcases his ability to use portraits, representative symbols and figures, and iconic personifications to convey thought-provoking insights into the institutions, issues and events that shaped a critical period of American history. Berryman came of age in the decade of America's first assertions of global reach as a major world power, and he lived to see the ominous threats that followed World War II and the advent of the Cold War.

This eBook is designed to teach students to analyze history as conveyed in visual media. The cartoons offer comments about various moments in history, and they challenge the students to evaluate their own perspective on history in comparison to Berryman's.

Berryman's cartoons were originally published as illustrations for the front page of the Washington Post and the Washington Evening Star at various dates spanning the years from 1896 to 1949. For more than 50 years, Berryman's cartoons intrigued readers of Washington's newspapers with daily illustrations of history in the making. These cartoons promise to engage students in similar ways today.

Berryman's cartoons seem familiar at first glance. Closer study, however, reveals nuances and design features that invite in-depth analysis and discussion. Using these cartoons, students can enjoy the challenge of unlocking each cartoon's meaning and better understand American history. As they do so, students will develop the critical thinking skills so important to academic success and participation in civic life.





How This EBook Is Organized

This eBook presents 63 political cartoons by Clifford K. Berryman, organized in seven chapters that illustrate significant issues in each of seven eras. Each chapter presents nine cartoons as thumbnails on its landing page followed by a full-page version of each image accompanied by links to analysis worksheets.



Teaching with this EBook

This draft version of America and the World is designed to teach students about United States history through the analysis of political cartoons. Students will study these cartoons in two steps:

- Analyze each cartoon using the NARA Cartoon Analysis Worksheet
- Analyze several cartoons to discuss how art represents history using Worksheet 2



Clifford Kennedy Berryman

Clifford K. Berryman was born in 1869 in the village of Clifton near Versailles, Kentucky. While growing up, drawing was one of Berryman's favorite pastimes, and he regularly sketched friends, animals, and even local politicians. His work attracted the interest of Kentucky Senator Joseph C. S. Blackburn, who happened to see one of Berryman's sketches displayed in a local office building. Recognizing Berryman's talent, Blackburn helped secure Berryman a position as a draftsman at the United States Patent Office. And so in 1886, at the age of 17, Berryman moved from Kentucky to Washington, DC, where he used his self-taught talents to draw patent illustrations. Berryman left the Patent Office in 1891 to become a cartoonist's understudy for the Washington Post. Within five years, Berryman had risen to chief cartoonist, a position he held until 1907 when he became the front-page cartoonist at the Washington Evening Star, then the most widely read newspaper in Washington. Berryman drew political cartoons for the Star until his death in 1949 at the age of 80. Because Berryman often gave away his cartoons, many of his original drawings are now scattered among numerous collections, but the original drawings featured in this eBook are from the largest collection of Berryman's cartoons housed in a single location. Originally belonging to his daughter, this rare collection of approximately 2,400 drawings was donated to the U.S. Senate and is now part of the historical records of Congress in the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives in Washington, DC. All of the cartoons in the Senate collection are available online.

War with Spain and the Age of Imperialism

1898 - 1899

The 1898 Spanish-American War signaled an expanded geographic focus in of America's foreign affairs from controlling the Western hemisphere to administering global possessions. The war grew out of events in Cuba, a remnant of Spain's American empire. Cubans had been resisting Spanish rule for three decades, and although many Americans sympathized with the Cubans throughout a ten-year insurrection, the United States had not intervened. When the Cubans rose up again in 1895, President William McKinley hoped to avoid involvement, although others in his administration advocated for intervention. When negotiations between the United States and Spain failed, President

McKinley asked Congress to declare war. The April to August war left the United States holding former Spanish colonies including Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. Adding these territories along with the concurrent annexation of Hawaii, sparked a fierce debate about overseas expansion, which many denounced as a violation of an anti-imperial tradition dating to the nation's founding.

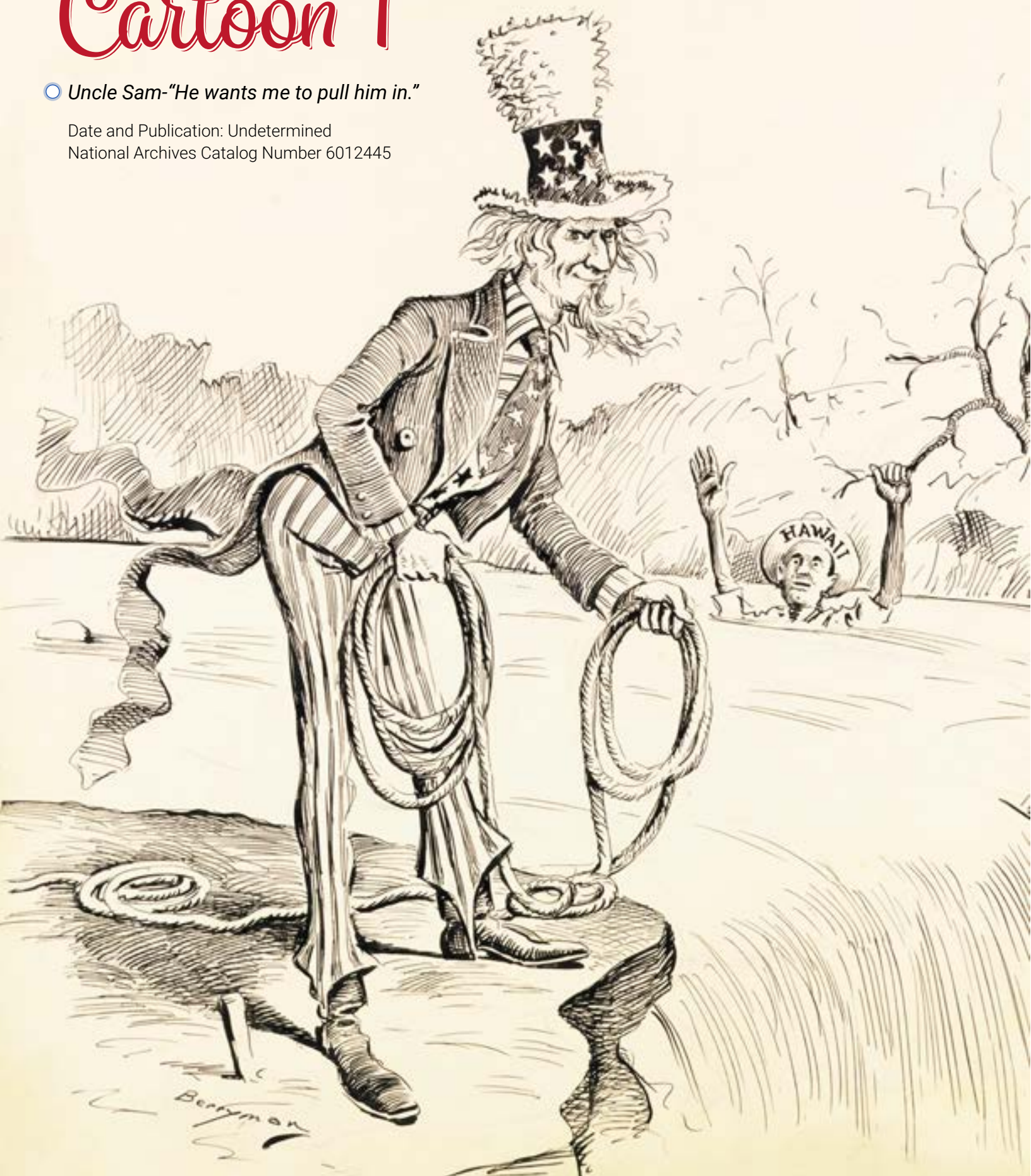


Cartoon 1


○ Uncle Sam—"He wants me to pull him in."

Date and Publication: Undetermined

National Archives Catalog Number 6012445



Cartoon 2

 Torn Loose

Washington Post, April 17, 1898

National Archives Catalog Number 306119



Cartoon 3

Uncle Sam's Temptation

Washington Post, June 26, 1898

National Archives Catalog Number 6010272



Cartoon 4

○ Whither

Washington Post, July 13, 1898

National Archives Catalog Number 6010279



Cartoon 5

Who'll Bell the Cat

Washington Post, July 29, 1898

National Archives Catalog Number 6010285



Cartoon 6

○ Cannot Roll It Back

Washington Post, November 6, 1898

National Archives Catalog Number 6010302



Cartoon 7

● A Good Plan for the New Year, Uncle Sam

Washington Post, December 30, 1898

National Archives Catalog Number 6010304



Cartoon 8

Untitled

Washington Post, February 4, 1899

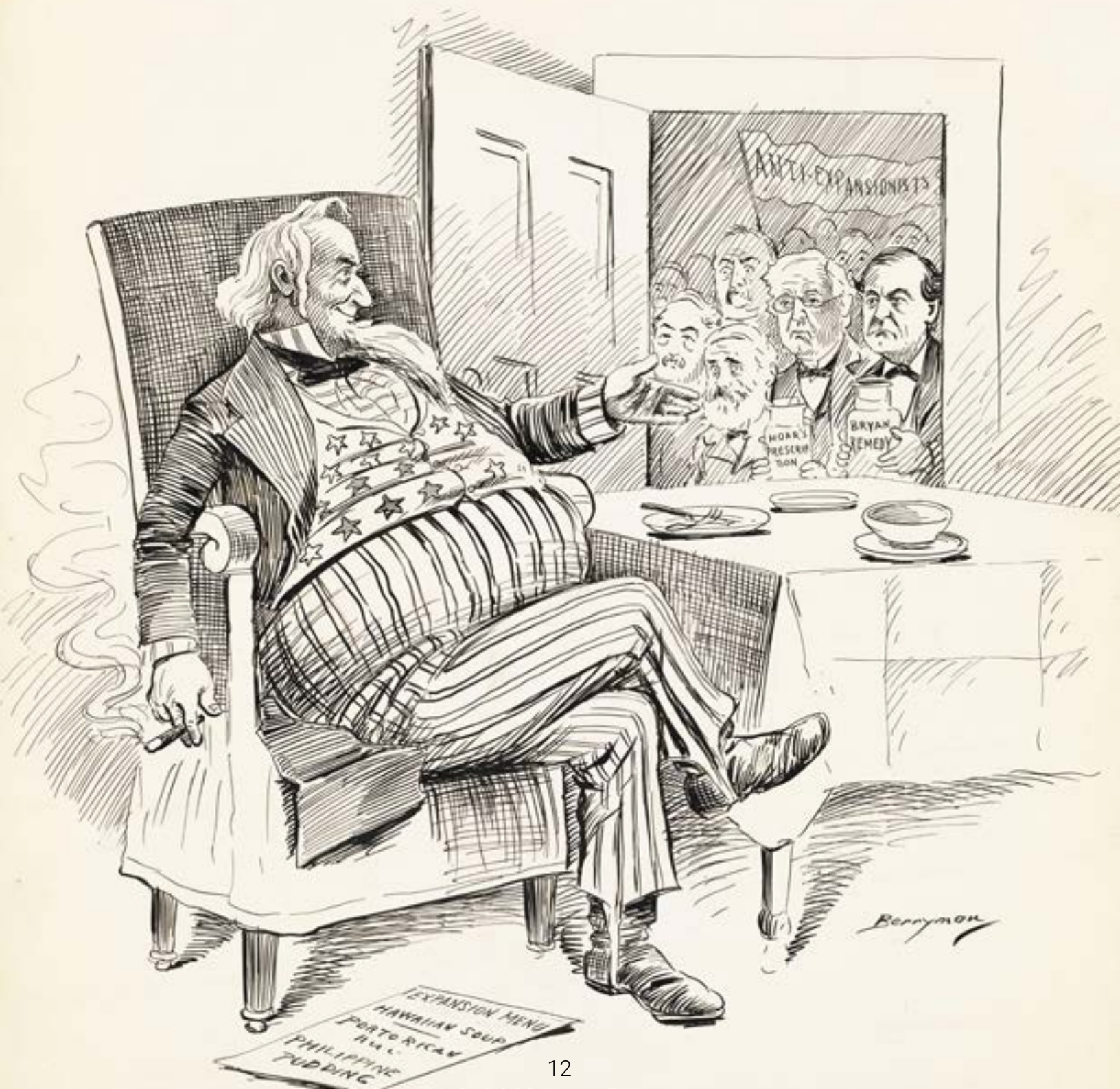
National Archives Catalog Number 6010306



Cartoon 9

○ Uncle Sam—"Too late, my boys.
I've already expanded."

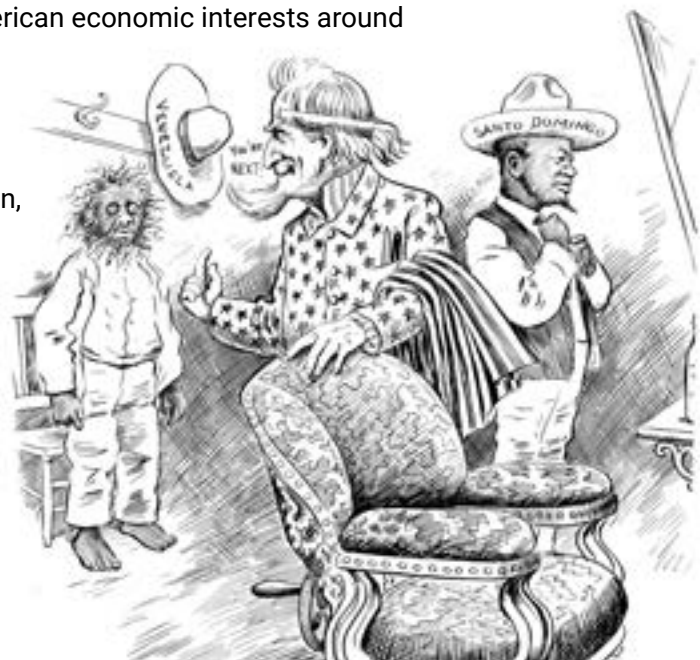
Washington Post, September 14, 1899
National Archives Catalog Number 6010331



The Era of the Big Stick and Dollar Diplomacy

1900 – 1913

The phrases “the big stick” and “dollar diplomacy” describe American foreign policy in the decades between the War with Spain and World War I. The former derives from President Theodore Roosevelt’s assertion of American power to influence world events. From leading the negotiations that ended the Russo-Japanese War with the Treaty of Portsmouth, to spearheading the American completion of the Panama Canal, Roosevelt was an active president who charted an ambitious foreign policy for the nation. His successor, William Howard Taft, by contrast, advanced American economic interests around the globe. “Dollar diplomacy” refers to the global investments and strategic uses of financial leverage he led. The third president of this era, Woodrow Wilson, advocated a foreign policy grounded in morality. Under Wilson, the United States seized control of Caribbean and Latin American states perceived as being insolvent or unstable. Instability in Mexico, however, would provide the United States with ongoing frustration throughout the Wilson years.



Cartoon 10

● Twentieth Century Twins—"Have we not lost our way?"

Washington Post, February 18, 1900

National Archives Catalog Number 6010342



Cartoon 11

As Inseparable as Ruth and Naomi

Washington Post, March 2, 1900

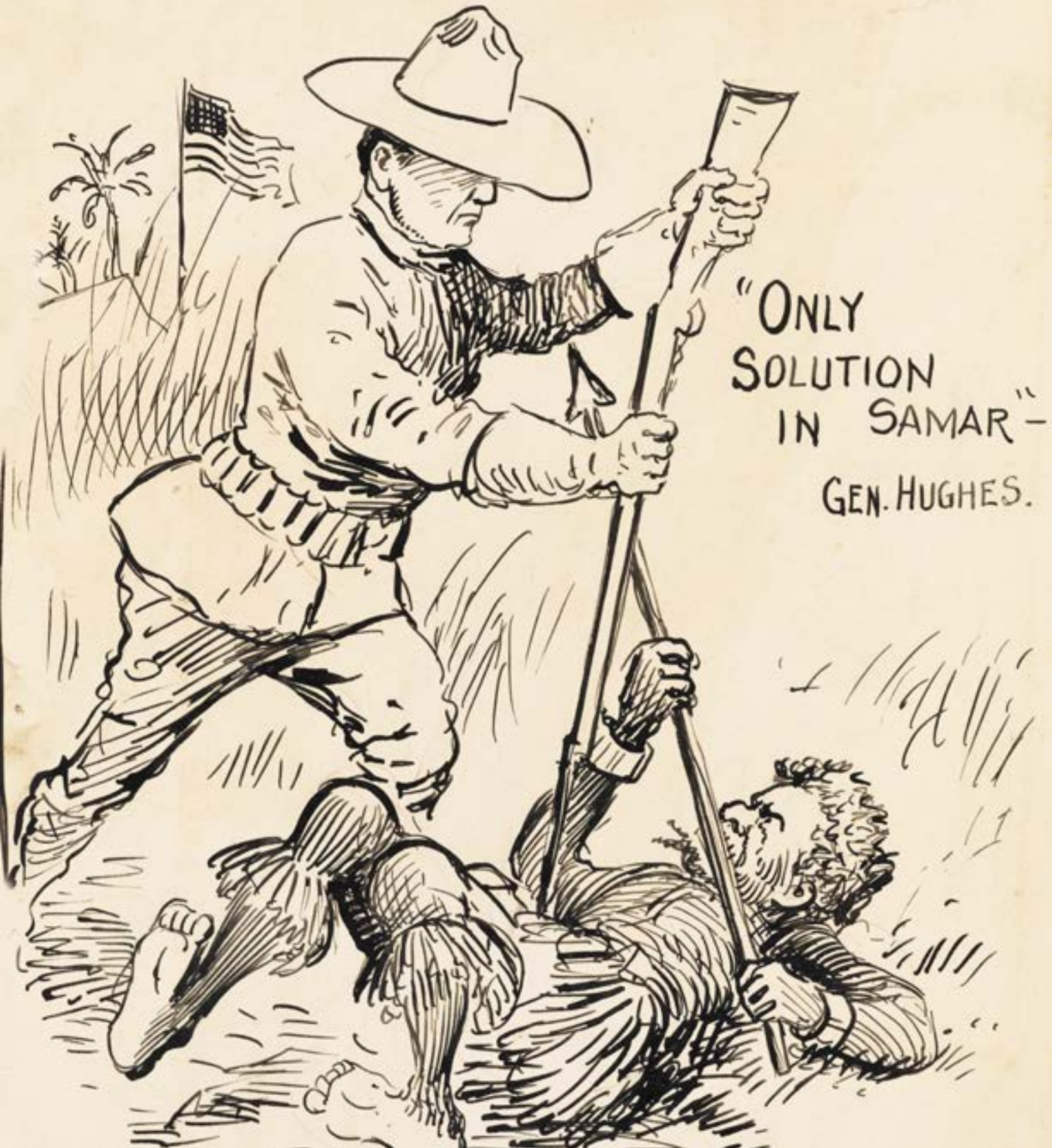
National Archives Catalog Number 6010344



Cartoon 12

Untitled

Washington Post, December 24, 1901
National Archives Catalog Number 6010388

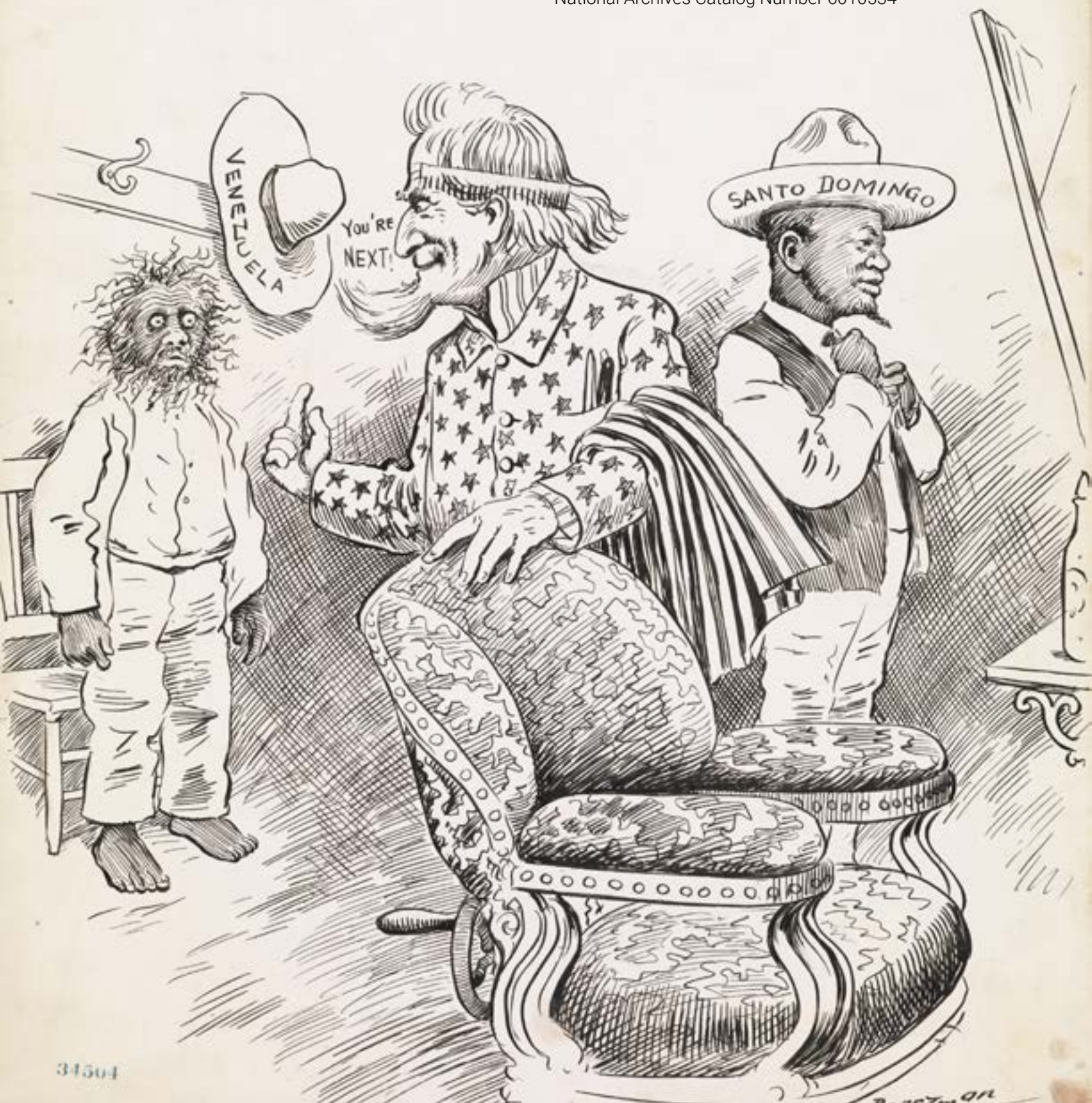


Cartoon 13

○ Next!

Washington Post, January 31, 1905

National Archives Catalog Number 6010534



34504

Cartoon 14

○ Naming the Baby

Washington Post, September 2, 1905

National Archives Catalog Number 6010615



Cartoon 15

○ Distribution of The Chinese Pie

Washington Evening Star, August 18 1909
National Archives Catalog Number 6010812



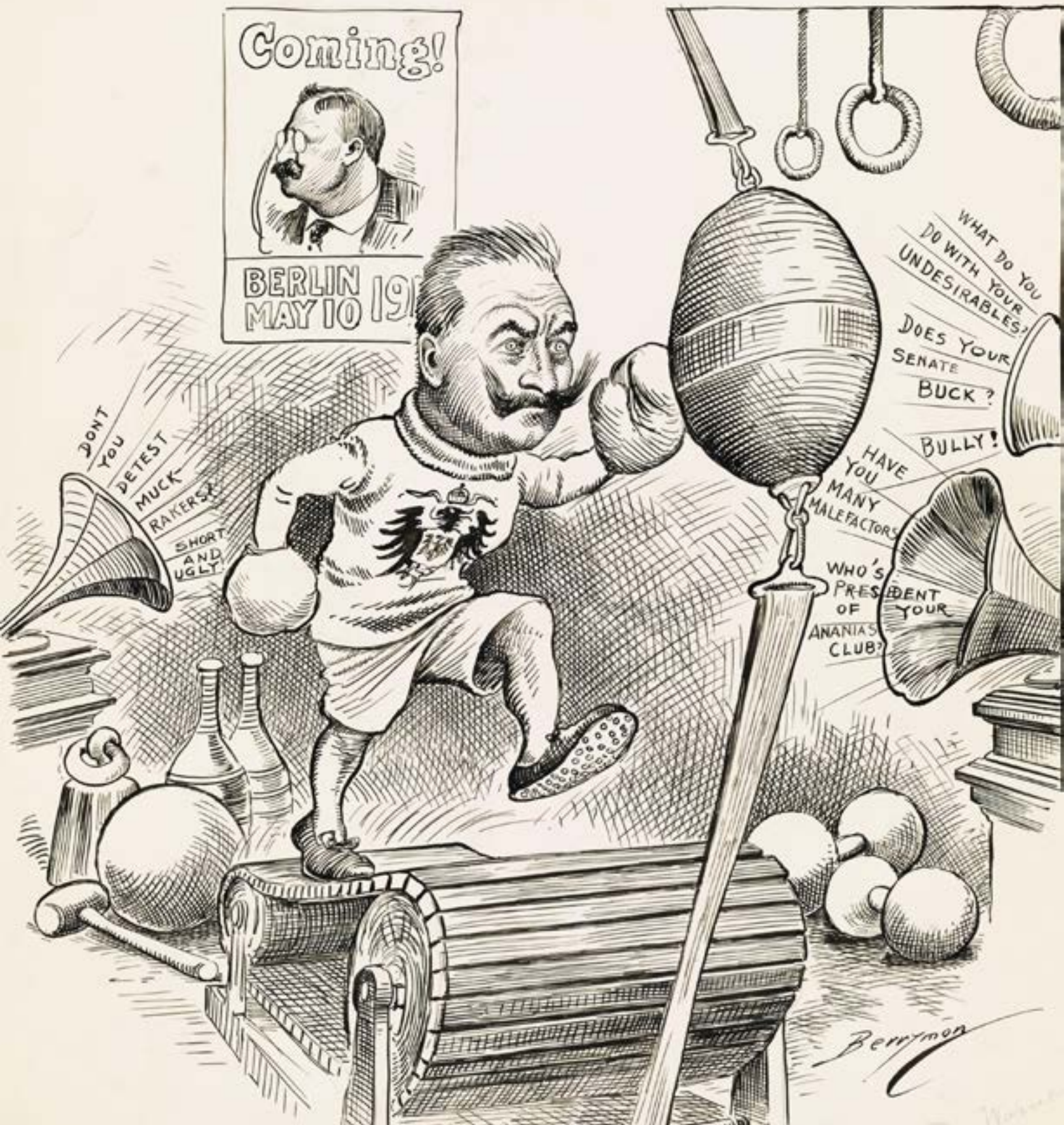
Distribution of the Chinese Pie

Cartoon 16

Palace Preparation Practice

Washington Evening Star, May 1, 1910

National Archives Catalog Number 6010841





Cartoon 17

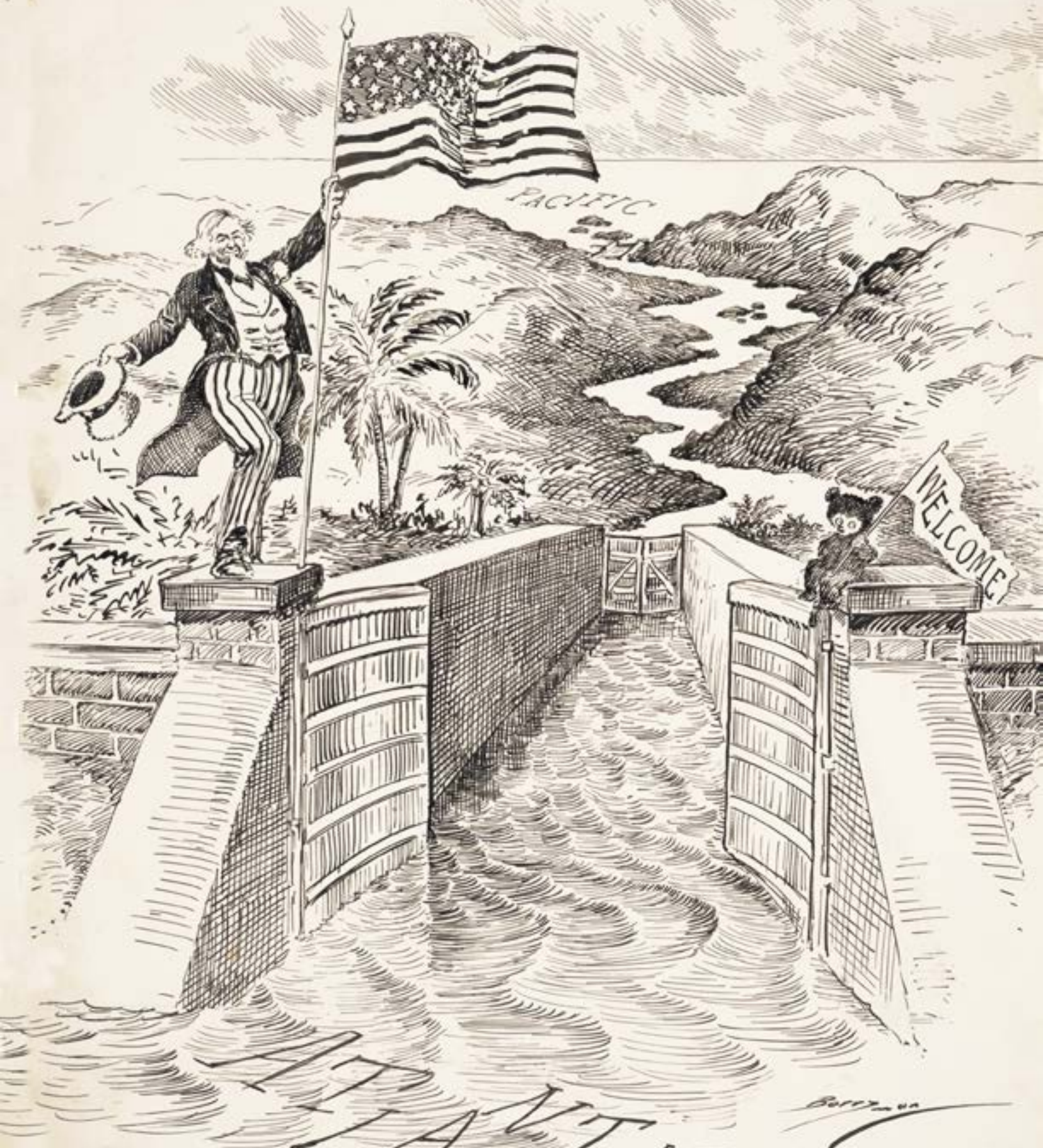
Untitled

Washington Evening Star, February 10, 1913
National Archives Catalog Number 6010997

Cartoon 18

Open for Business

Washington Evening Star, August 15, 1914
National Archives Catalog Number 6011066

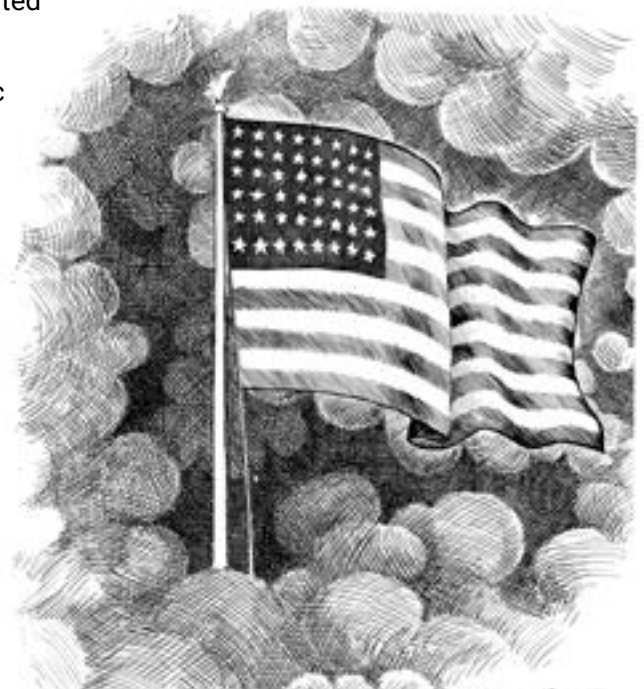


World War I Begins in Europe

1914 – 1916

America should be neutral in “word and deed” urged President Woodrow Wilson when World War I began in August 1914. The nation followed his lead and for almost three years endured the difficulties that arose from cultural and commercial ties to belligerent nations as well the loss of ships and hundreds of lives lost at sea.

Berryman’s cartoons from the early years of the war reflect the national commitment to neutrality, as well as the war’s unprecedented scale and destructive effect on both military and civilian societies. Berryman showed President Wilson’s diplomatic responses to German submarine attacks in contrast to the decisive action he advocated to address ongoing political instability in Mexico. From the start of the war, Berryman’s cartoons also depicted the revolutionary impact of new military technologies such as airplanes and submarines. While the nation aspired to maintain its tradition of avoiding international entanglements, the impact of these new technologies threatened to end America’s insulation from the turmoil of Europe.



Cartoon 19

World - "Now it has Spread to the Other Side"

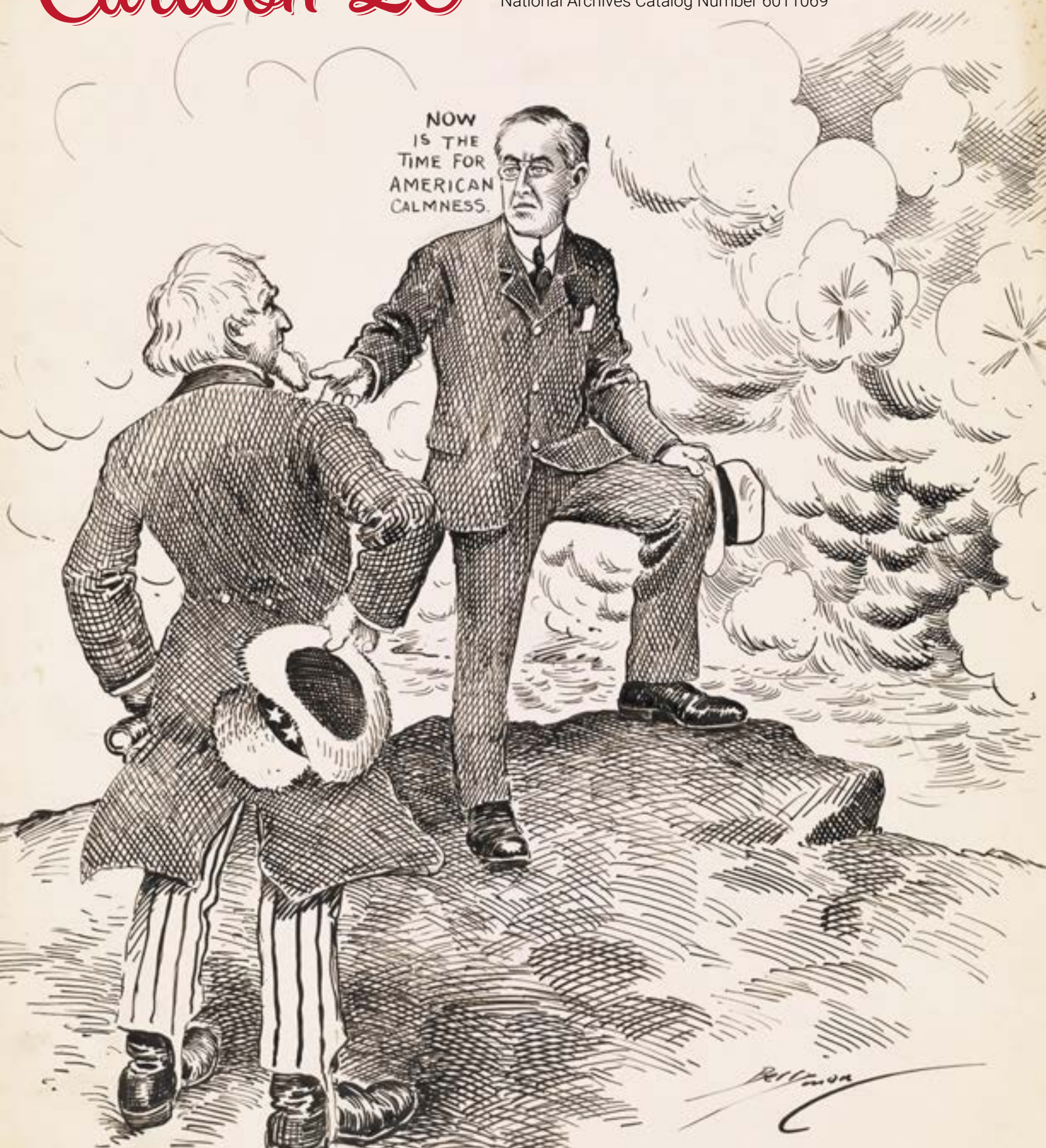
Washington Evening Star, August 18, 1914
National Archives Catalog Number 6011067



Cartoon 20

Untitled

Washington Evening Star, August 19, 1914
National Archives Catalog Number 6011069



Cartoon 21

○ A Suggestion to Future Foreign
Capital Builders

Washington Evening Star, September 3, 1914
National Archives Catalog Number 6011075



Cartoon 22

○ A Christmas Eve Contrast

Washington Evening Star, December 24, 1914
National Archives Catalog Number 6011091

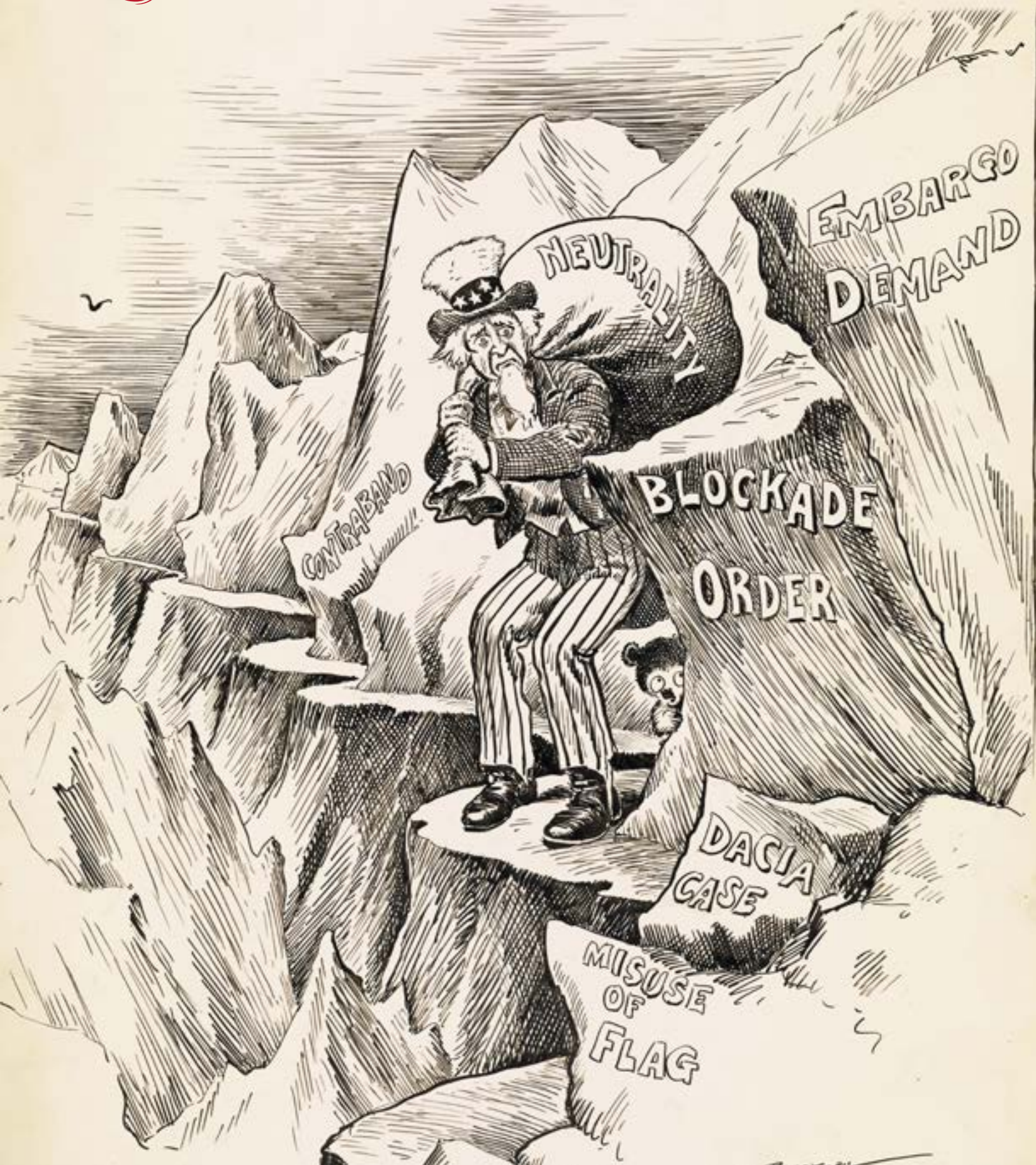


Cartoon 23

• The Way of the Neutral is Hard

Washington Evening Star, February 13, 1915

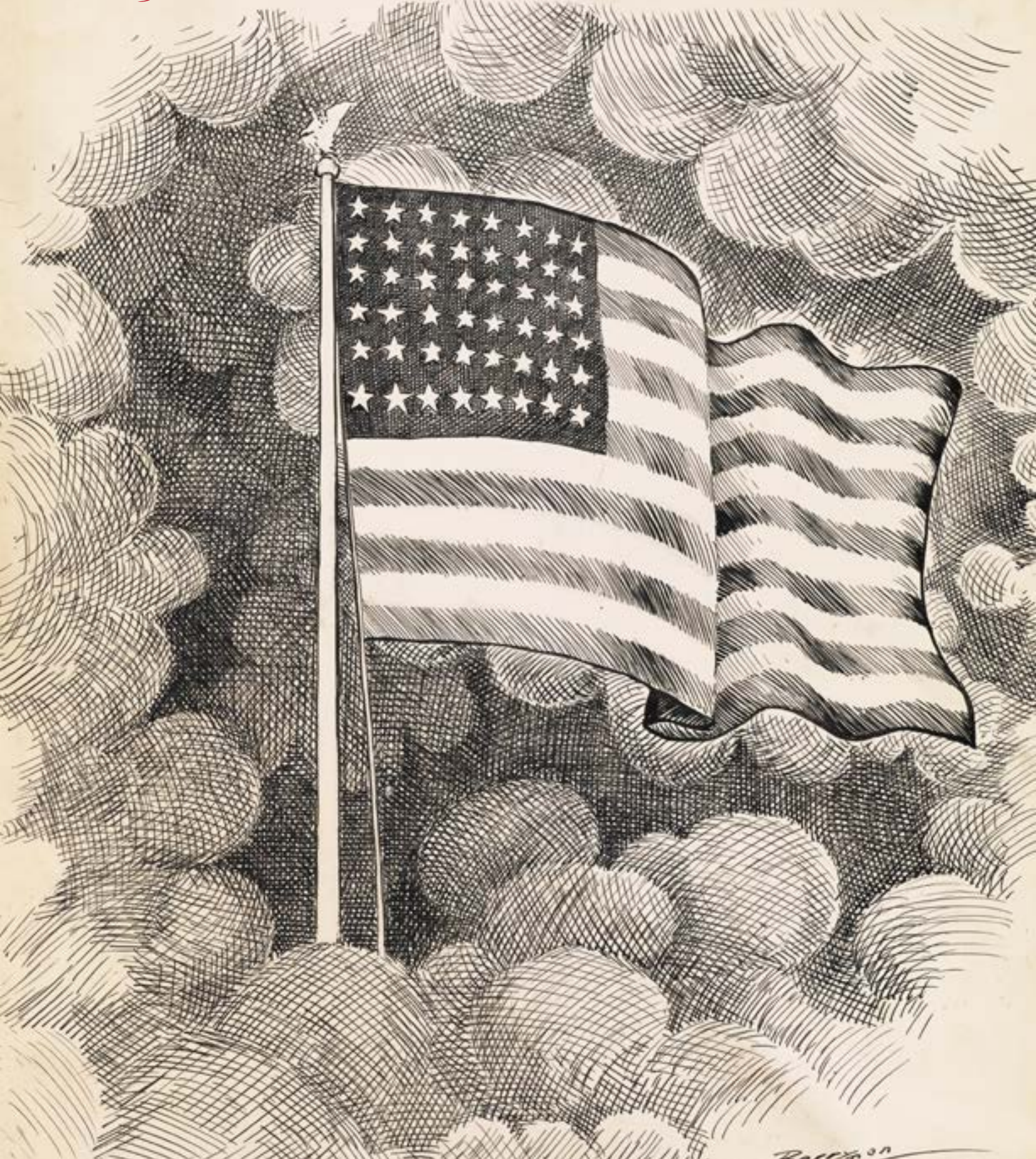
National Archives Catalog Number 6011098



Cartoon 24

○ No Entangling Alliances

Washington Evening Star, February 22, 1915
National Archives Catalog Number 6011101

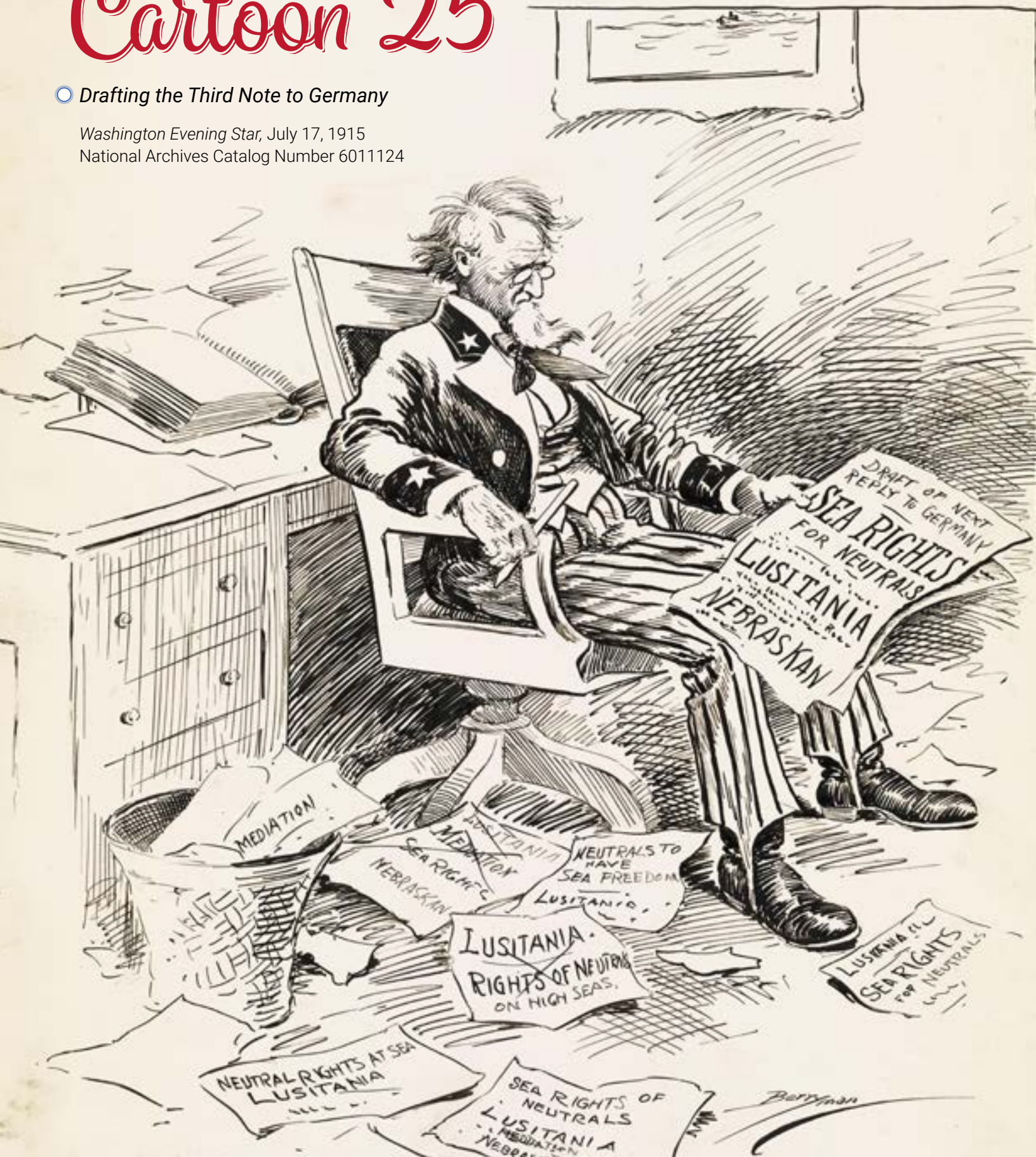


Cartoon 25

○ Drafting the Third Note to Germany

Washington Evening Star, July 17, 1915

National Archives Catalog Number 6011124

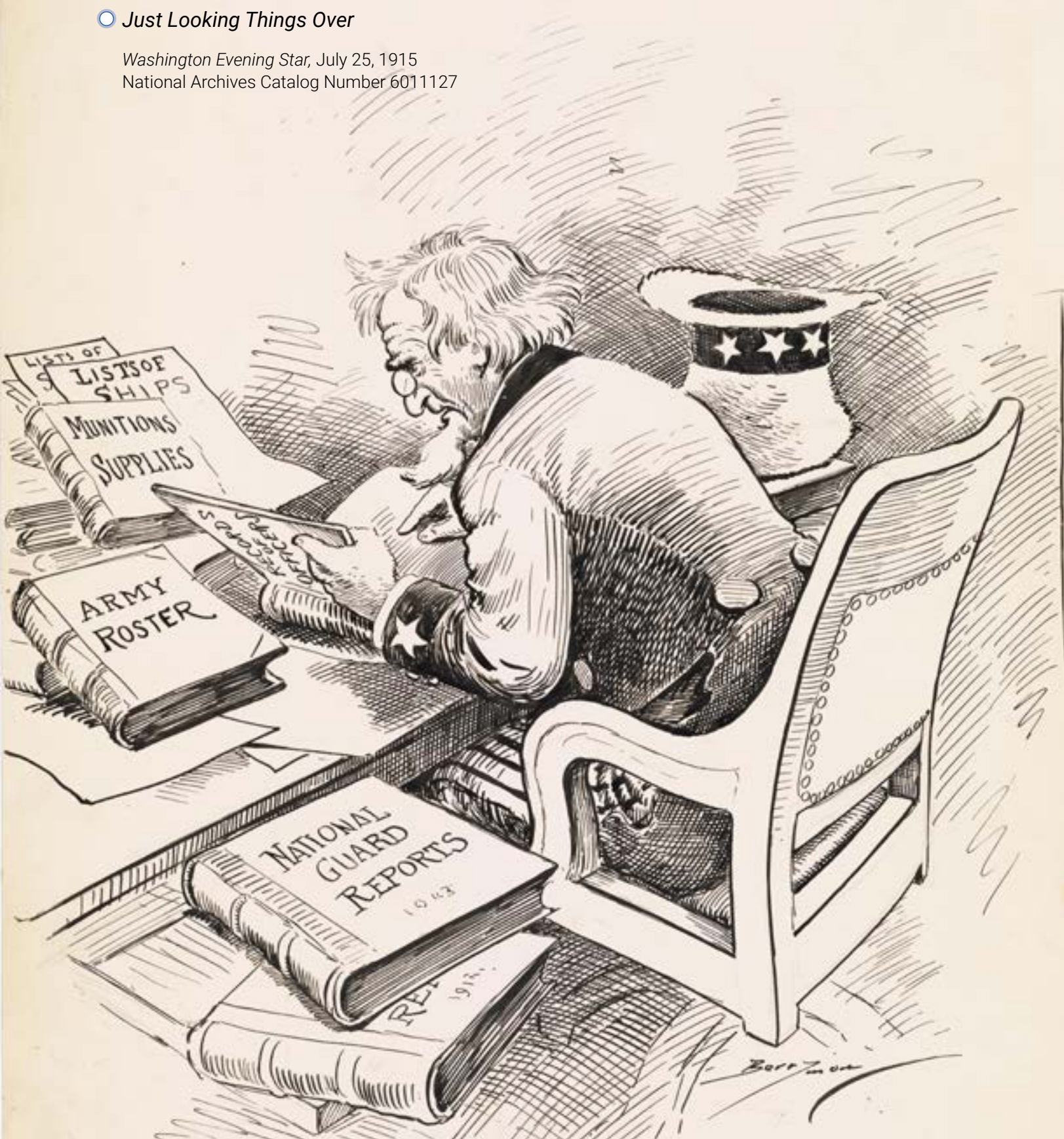


Cartoon 26

○ Just Looking Things Over

Washington Evening Star, July 25, 1915

National Archives Catalog Number 6011127



Cartoon 27

○ Ruthless Warfare at Sea

Washington Evening Star, February 1, 1917

National Archives Catalog Number 6011191



America Enters World War I in 1917

4.

1917

Congress's April 1917 declaration of war thrust America into a three-year-old war whose unprecedented bloodshed and destruction had yielded only a stalemate among the belligerent powers. Russia's overthrow of the czar weeks before the American declaration cast the war as a battle posing republics against monarchies to shape the future. Shifting from neutrality to all-out war imposed unprecedented challenges of rapidly harnessing national resources and manpower to raise and equip a vast military in a short span of months. Equally daunting, the new forces must be shipped across thousands of miles of ocean menaced by storms, submarines, and mines. Berryman's cartoons reflected the magnitude of the economic, logistical, and military challenges of 1917, but also served to rally public opinion to support the nation's grim pursuit of its mission.



Cartoon 28

○ *Untitled*

Washington Evening Star, March 21, 1917
National Archives Catalog Number

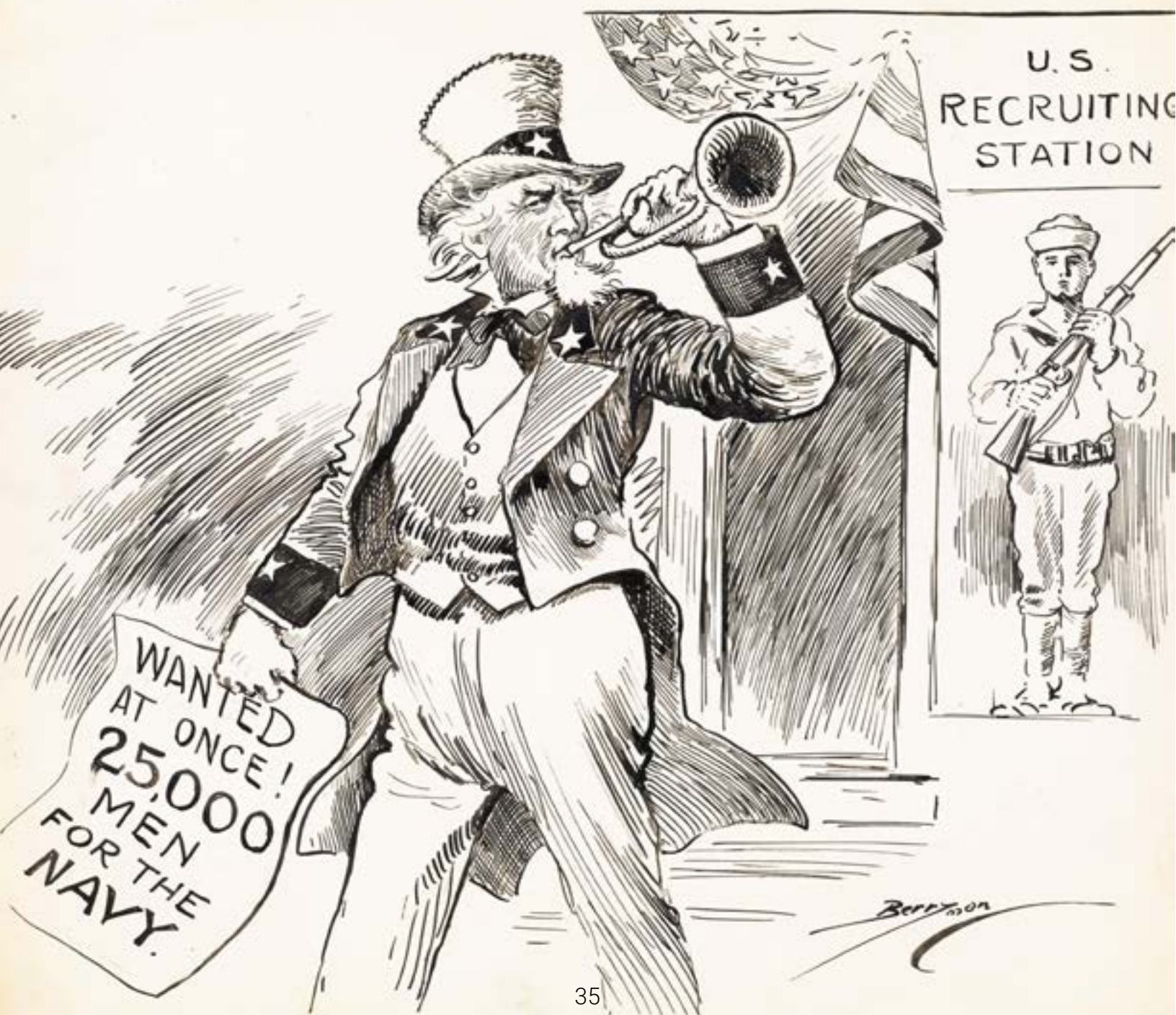


Cartoon 29

The Call

Washington Evening Star, March 26, 1917

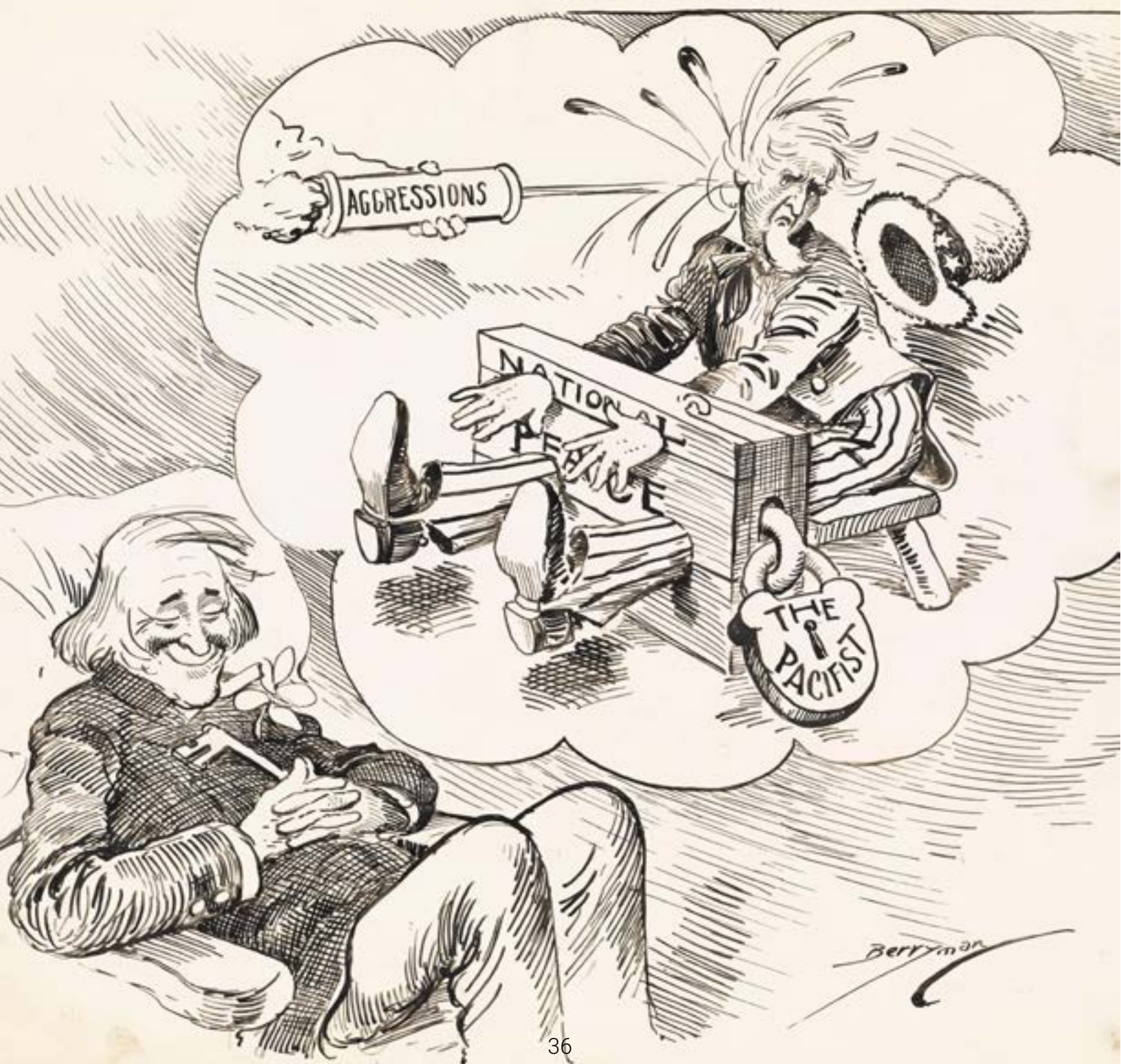
National Archives Catalog Number 6011214



Cartoon 30

The Pacifist's Dream

Washington Evening Star, March 31, 1917
National Archives Catalog Number 6011218

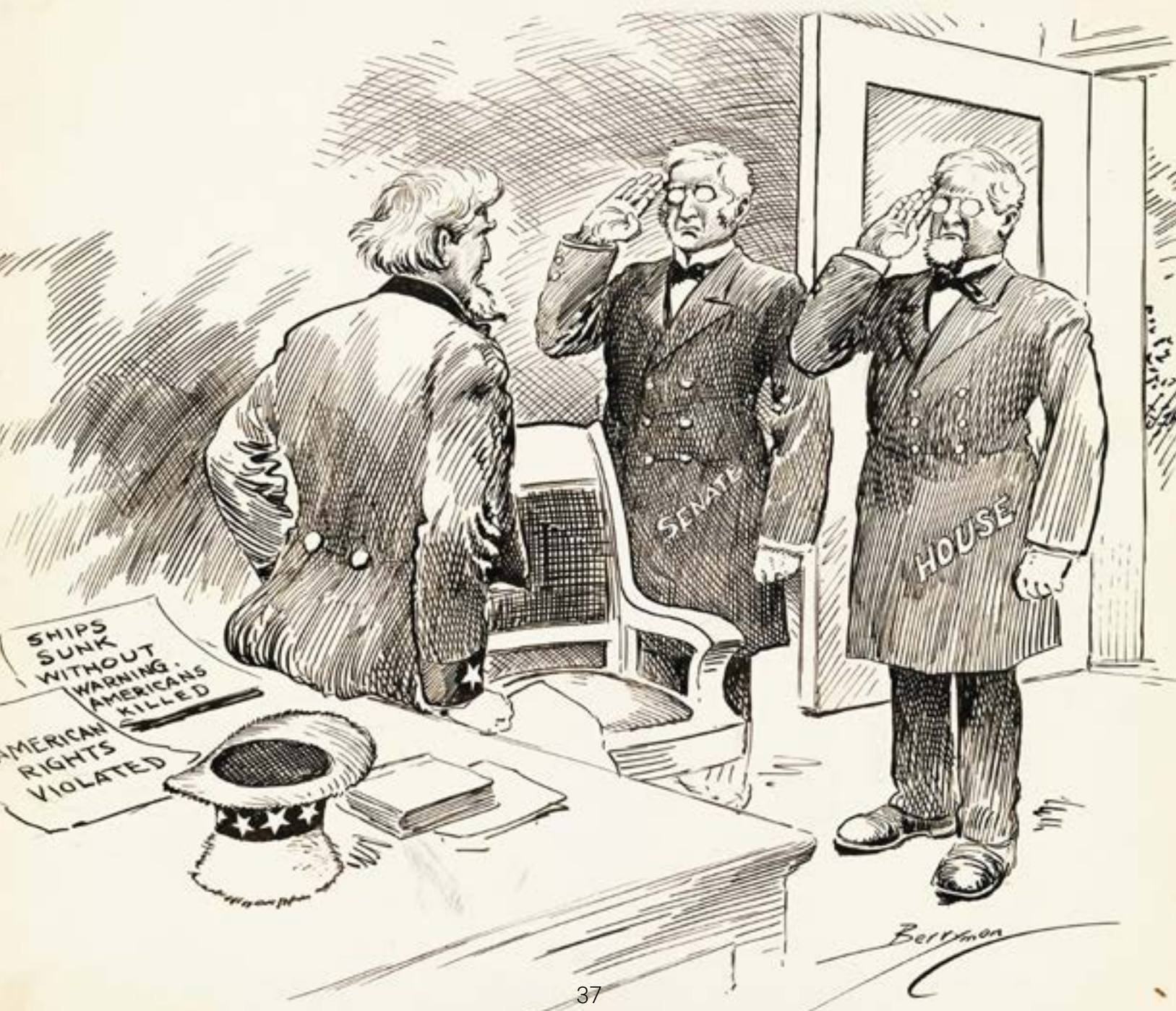


Cartoon 31

Reporting for Duty

Washington Evening Star, April 2, 1917

National Archives Catalog Number 6011220



Cartoon 32

○ Somewhere in France

Washington Evening Star, June 28, 1917
National Archives Catalog Number 6011253



Cartoon 33

○ Campaign of Culture

Washington Evening Star, September 9, 1917

National Archives Catalog Number 6011279



Cartoon 34

Untitled

Washington Evening Star, October 13, 1917
National Archives Catalog Number 6011293



Cartoon 35

Kerensky to the Rescue

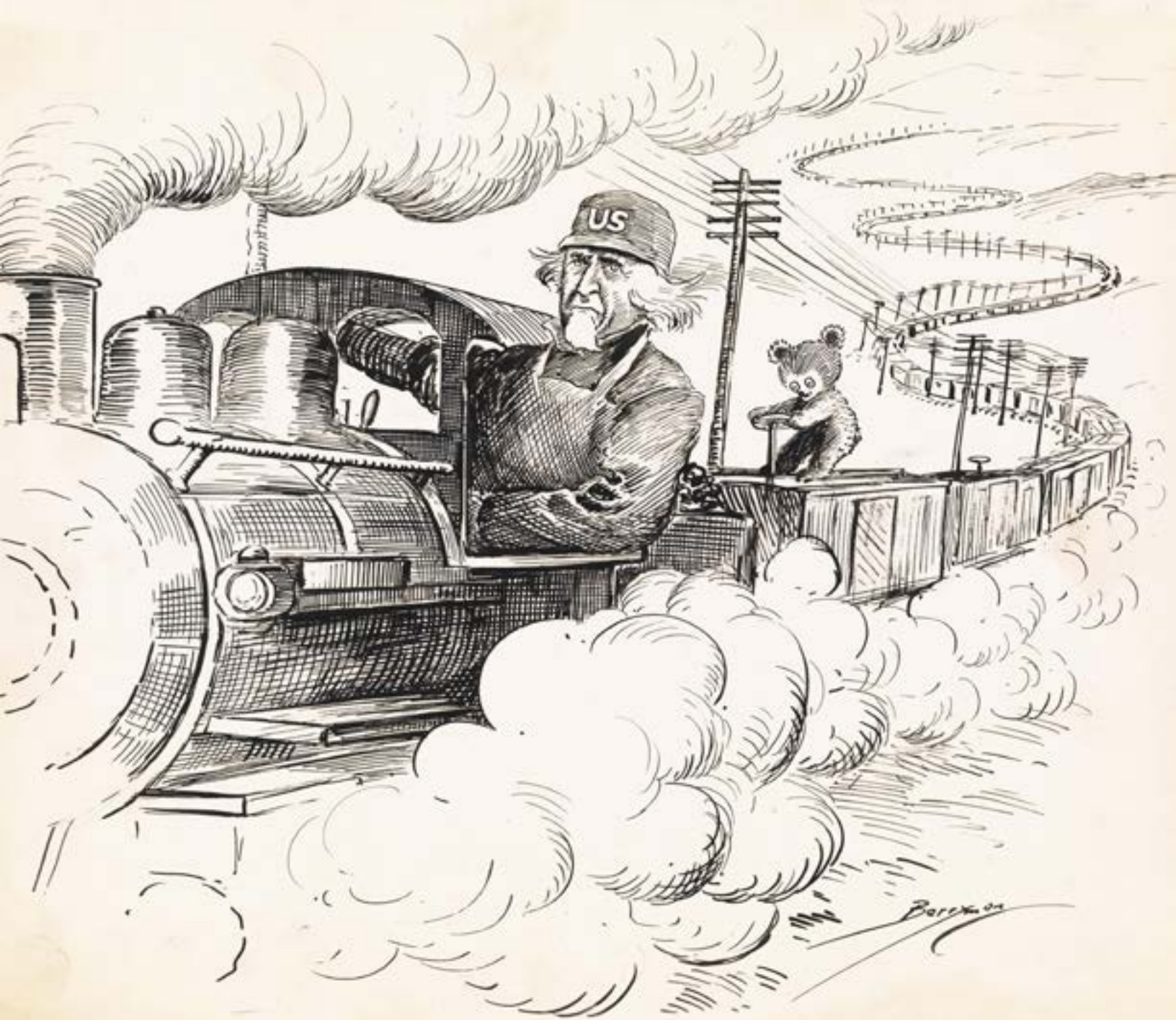
Washington Evening Star, November 13, 1917
National Archives Catalog Number 6011301



Cartoon 36

Under Way

Washington Evening Star, December 28, 1917
National Archives Catalog Number 6011317



America at War in Europe

1918

Fighting on land, at sea, and for the first time, in the air; in 1918 the American military acted in concert with a nation organized to achieve new levels of economic, industrial, and social cohesion. President Woodrow Wilson galvanized public opinion when he presented his vision of America's role in the future world order to Congress in January, 1918. America responded by waging total war "to make the world safe for democracy." German submarine attacks, which had triggered the American declaration of war, failed to stop a flood of U.S. soldiers and supplies from reaching France and bolstering the Allies in the critical months of 1918 when the force of the final all-out German offensive was blunted and the tide of battle turned.



Cartoon 37

○ Aesop Interrupted

Washington Evening Star, January 8, 1918

National Archives Catalog Number 6011326

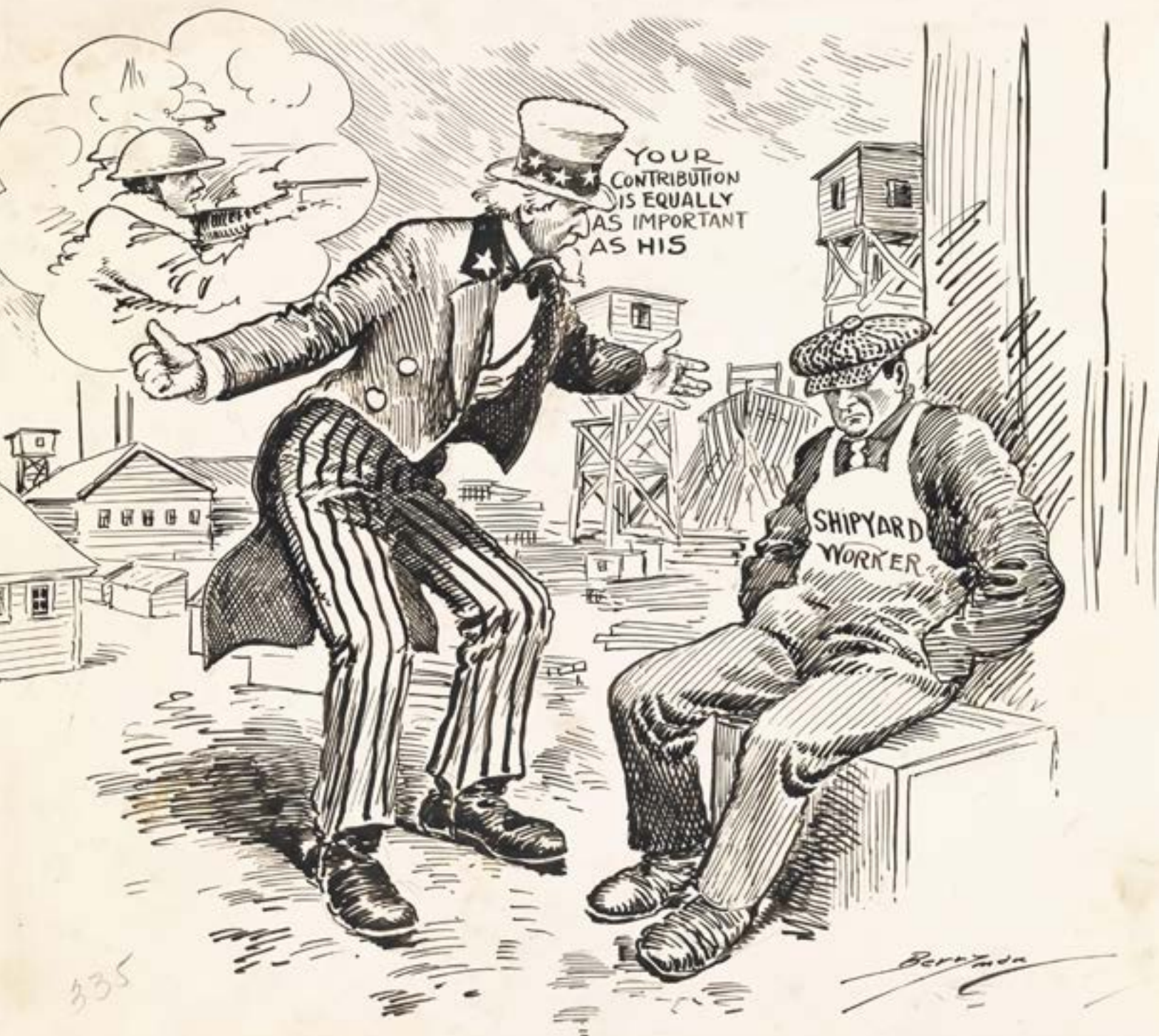


AESOP INTERRUPTED

Cartoon 38

○ Untitled

Washington Evening Star, February 17, 1918
National Archives Catalog Number 6011349



Cartoon 39

○ Cutting in on the Wire

Washington Evening Star, February 24, 1918
National Archives Catalog Number 6011355



Cartoon 40

○ Untitled

Washington Evening Star, June 4, 1918
National Archives Catalog Number 6011421



Cartoon 41

Submarine Warfare

Washington Evening Star, July 2, 1918
National Archives Catalog Number 6011446



Cartoon 42

○ The Teuton Deduction

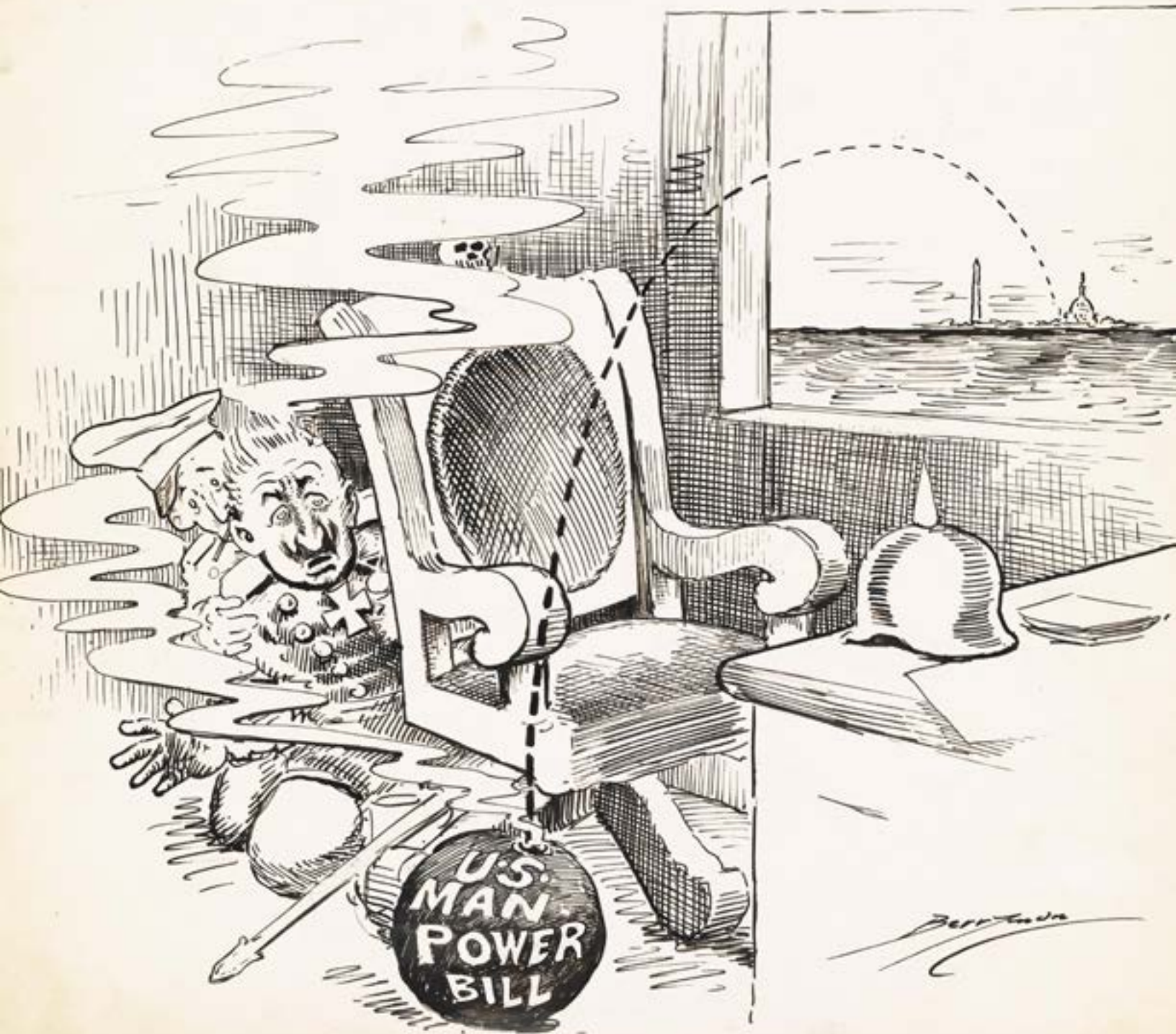
Washington Evening Star, July 26, 1918
National Archives Catalog Number 6011467



Cartoon 43

○ At Long Range

Washington Evening Star, August 28, 1918
National Archives Catalog Number 6011484

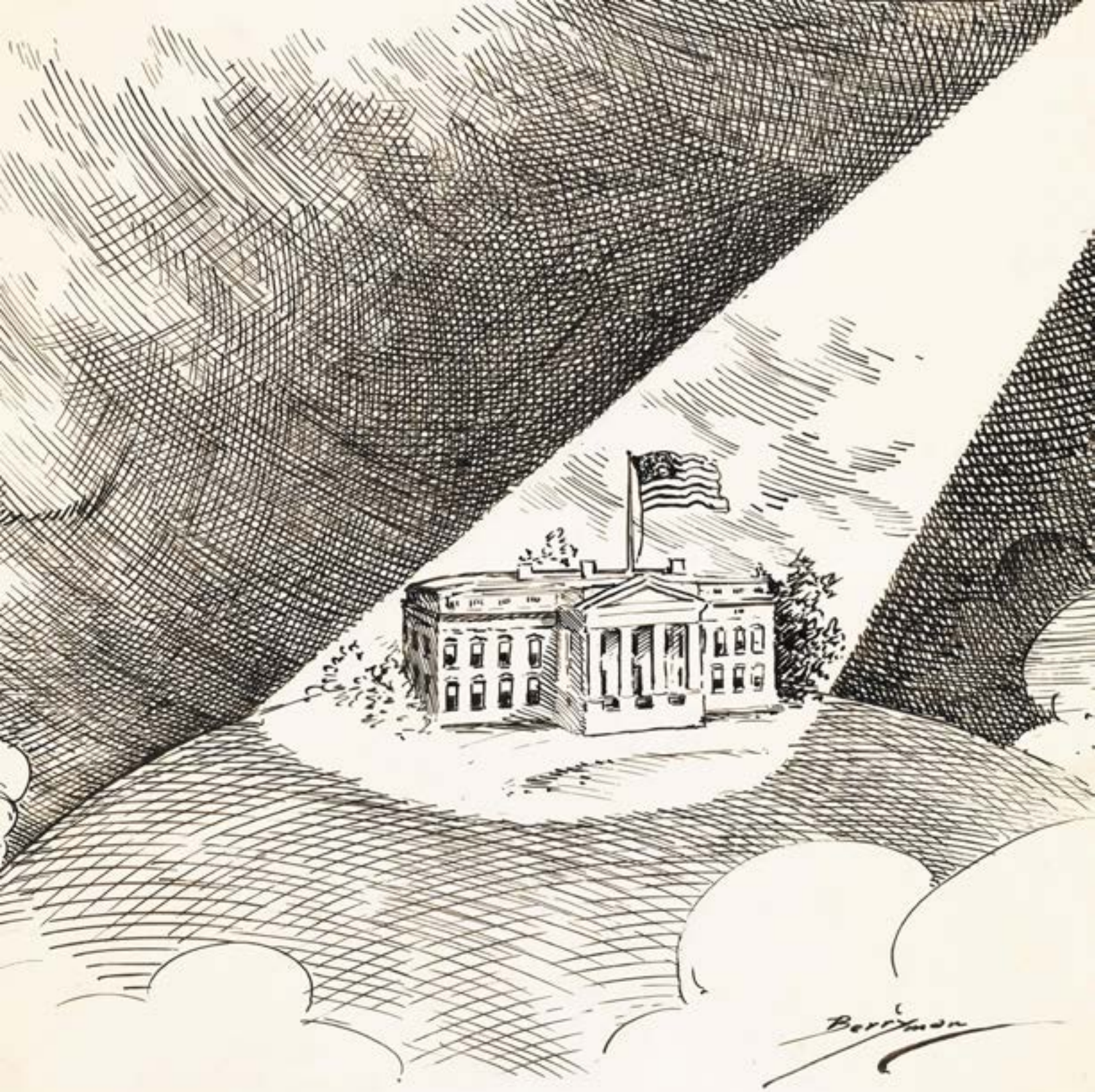


Cartoon 44

○ Appeal of League of Nations

Washington Evening Star, September 26, 1918
National Archives Catalog Number 6011503





Cartoon 45

○ In the World Spotlight

Washington Evening Star, October 8, 1918
National Archives Catalog Number 6011512

The Post-War Quest for Peace

1919–1938

President Woodrow Wilson's optimism for a stable post-war world at the end of World War I helped shape the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations and sought to create lasting peace. Despite the Senate's rejection of the treaty and America's refusal to join the League, the United States cooperated in two decades of negotiations and treaties that held off international war through negotiated arms limitations treaties and the arbitration of international disputes. The 1928 Kellogg Briand Pact, which outlawed war as an instrument of international relations, marked the high point in this hopeful period. The next decade, however, witnessed the rise of new belligerent powers whose aggressions yielded a second, and even more destructive world war. Berryman's cartoons from these decades reflect both the hope of the times and his realistic assessment of the limits of idealism, arbitration, and international pacts.



Cartoon 46

Some Job

Washington Evening Star, January 1, 1919
National Archives Catalog Number 6011542



Cartoon 47

○ The New Peril

Washington Evening Star, January 10, 1919
National Archives Catalog Number 6011546



Cartoon 48

○ Awaiting the Decision from Paris

Washington Evening Star, January 19, 1919
National Archives Catalog Number 6011547



Cartoon 49

Wounded Rat at the Hands of Vengeful Cats

Washington Evening Star, February 8, 1919

National Archives Catalog Number



Cartoon 50

Article X

Washington Evening Star, October 19, 1920
National Archives Catalog Number 6011640



Cartoon 51

Untitled

Washington Evening Star, December 28, 1921
National Archives Catalog Number 6011704

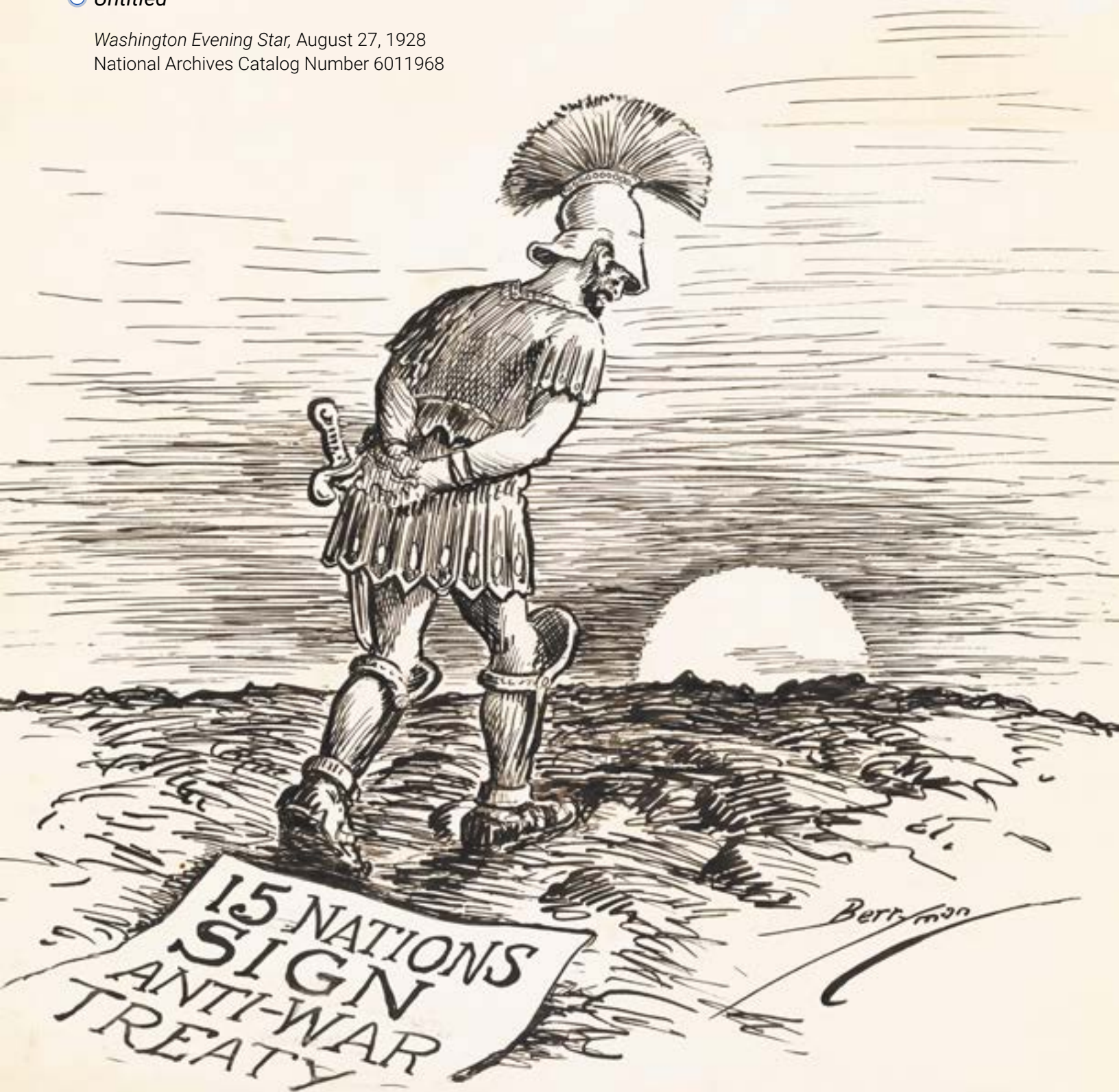


Cartoon 52

○ *Untitled*

Washington Evening Star, August 27, 1928

National Archives Catalog Number 6011968



Cartoon 53

○ Telling the Italians!

Washington Evening Star, April 30, 1938
National Archives Catalog Number 6012175



Cartoon 54

○ They'll Push It Through Without Help From Anybody

Washington Evening Star, January 31, 1939
National Archives Catalog Number 6012189



Storm Clouds Gathering: World War II on the Horizon

1939–1940

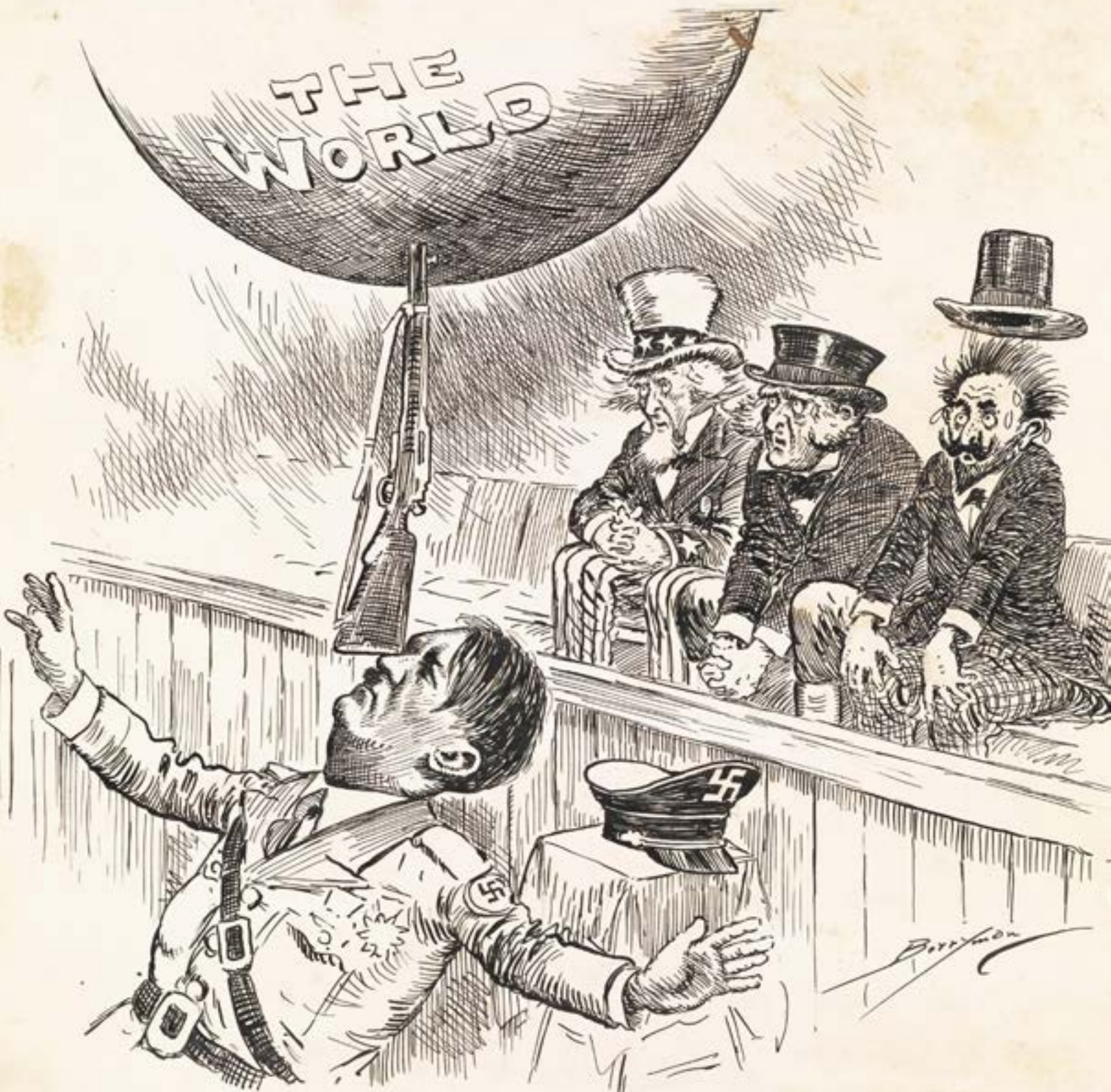
Neutrality and isolation were ideals Americans fervently clung to, although it was clear by 1940 that international agreements would not sustain world peace. The Neutrality Acts passed in 1935, 1936, and 1937 were designed to avoid the pitfalls, such as aiding belligerent nations, that many felt had entrapped the U.S. into entering World War I. As the menace posed by Germany, Italy, Japan, and the Soviet Union grew ever more alarming, Americans wrestled with how to preserve neutrality, isolation, and American interests. Berryman's cartoons from this era captured the drama of the days and his recognition that war loomed on the horizon.



Cartoon 55

○ *It's A Good Act But It's Hard On The Spectators*

Washington Evening Star, August 20, 1939
National Archives Catalog Number 6012197



Cartoon 56

○ Ajax!

Washington Evening Star, August 24, 1939
National Archives Catalog Number 6012199





Cartoon 57

○ A Lot of Fellows Were On That Limb

Washington Evening Star, August 26, 1939
National Archives Catalog Number 6012200

Cartoon 58

○ *Business As Usual at the Old Stand!*

Washington Evening Star, September 4, 1939
National Archives Catalog Number 6012201



Cartoon 59

Untitled

Washington Evening Star, September 7, 1939
National Archives Catalog Number



Cartoon 60

Untitled

Washington Evening Star, September 23, 1939
National Archives Catalog Number 6012204



Cartoon 61

“Lafayette, we are here!”

Washington Evening Star, May 22, 1940

National Archives Catalog Number 6012212



Cartoon 62

Uncle Sam becomes Democracy's Arsenal

Washington Evening Star, September 2, 1940

National Archives Catalog Number 6012217



Cartoon 63

○ *Waiting for his number!*

Washington Evening Star, October 29, 1940
National Archives Catalog Number 6012221



Worksheet 1

Use this worksheet to analyze each cartoon.

This worksheet is also available on-line.

LEVEL 1

Visuals

1. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.

Words (not all cartoons include words)

1. Identify the cartoon caption and/or title.

2. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within the cartoon.

3. Record any important dates or numbers that appear in the cartoon.

LEVEL 2

Visuals

2. Which of the objects on your list are symbols?

3. What do you think each symbol means?

Words

4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Why do you think so?

5. List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed in the cartoon.

LEVEL 3

A. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon

B. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols.

C. Explain the message of the cartoon.

D. What special interest groups would agree/disagree with the cartoon's message? Why?

Worksheet 2

Discussing Cartoons as Works of Art Reflecting History

Answer the following statements and questions to discuss the cartoons contained in one chapter of the eBook.

- ? Which cartoon best embodies the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words”?
- ? What insight does the cartoon you selected for the preceding question contribute to understanding the relationship of America to the world when it was published?
- ? Identify three elements of one cartoon that either support or contradict the following statement: “Clifford Berryman’s cartoons are much more than political caricatures; each stands alone as a timeless work of art.”
- 1 While each cartoon captures a moment in history, choose three cartoons from one chapter to make a hypothesis about Berryman’s general view of American foreign policy.
- 2 What aspect of foreign policy does Berryman’s art most thoughtfully convey? Which cartoon best expresses this idea?
- 3 Study the cartoons in a chapter to identify Berryman’s point of view about how the United States should act in response to the events referred to.

Historical CONTEXT

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